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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (May 21, 1987)

CHARLESTON, ILL.--Eastern Illinois University President Stan Rives is continuing to affirm his support of Gov. James Thompson's proposed tax increases.

In a letter to members of the General Assembly, Rives said "I write to indicate that, as President of Eastern Illinois University, I support the need for a tax increase to meet the needs of our State. These needs include but are certainly not limited to elementary-secondary and higher education.

"I am certain you are already aware that the Board of Governors of State Colleges and Universities and the Illinois Board of Higher Education have also supported the need for additional Illinois tax revenues."

Rives wrote the lawmakers that Illinois has a below average tax burden and "we can afford a moderate increase without a negative impact on our competitiveness."

Rives also in the letters asked support for Eastern's \$6.4 million capital budget request for an addition to Coleman Hall to provide housing for faculty and instructional programs in the Lumpkin College of Business.

The president wrote that Eastern remains the most cost-effective public university in Illinois and "our objective remains quality, affordable public higher education for the citizens of Illinois."

In March Rives issued a statement commending Thompson "for the courage and leadership" he is providing in proposing tax increases "to meet the needs of the State."

In his commencement address to graduates in May the president again called for public support of the tax modification proposals.